

the stones, grid mortar, saw timber, and perform other heavy work. On each shore there was a lime-kilo, the chips of the limestone falling from the irons of the hoppers being burned into lime, and the chips of the red sandstone being ground to powder to make mortar with the lime. There were seventeen gantries, with travelling crabs on each, for moving the blocks of stone; railways diverged and converged on which trucks ran along, and every heavy weight in the building of this wonderful structure was moved as if men were gods, who only willed that huge blocks should take motion and they took it.

The building of the iron tubes had not then begun, but the stages upon which they are to be built were erected, extending along the Carnarvon shore about a quarter of a mile. The plates of iron are in preparation at different places in England and Scotland, and they will be conveyed separately to Wales, and put together on these stages.

#### NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

Tax charges and expenses paid by her Majesty's Commissioners in the execution of the Acts of Parliament for building and promoting the building of additional churches in populous parishes from 25th March 1846, to 25th March 1847, (ordered by the late House of Commons to be printed a few days previous to its dissolution,) amounted to 3,773*l*. The secretary receives a salary of 700*l*, and the surveyor a similar stipend. The carpenters at work on the Ipswich Museum, have proceeded to roof the buildings; the completion is expected about the end of September. A subscription movement for the restoration of the South Chapel of St. Martin's church, Leicester, is making progress; extensive repairs are requisite both there and in other parts of the church; those of the chancel are now proceeding. A lightning conductor of the patent wire-rope description manufactured by Messrs. Andrew Smith and Co., has been attached to the spire. The chancel of Heather church, which was to be reopened on 27th inst., has been entirely rebuilt, and a north aisle added. The old apology for a steeple has been taken down, and replaced by a tower, with large ornamental pinnacles, which, from the peculiar whiteness of the Normanton stone, forms a striking object for some distance. The church consists of nave, with clerestory windows, north and south aisles, and spacious chancel. The aisles are fitted up with low pews, and the nave with open free sittings. Both the chancel roof and the nave are open to the rafters, which are stained a dark colour. The works towards the rebuilding the parish church of Cranoe are now rapidly progressing, under Messrs. Thompson and Ruddle, of Peterborough, builders, whose contract amounts to 1,185*l*. The foundation-stone was to be laid some time this week, by the Earl of Cardigan. The funds, according to the *Leicester Journal*, are still very deficient. The amount subscribed for public baths, &c. at Birmingham, according to the *Journal*, was about 6,000*l*. The buildings will be commenced as soon as the land purchased by the committee is transferred to the town council. The money will then be returned in full to the subscribers. The governors of the new Free Grammar School to be erected at Walsall, in place of the less commodious one purchased by the South Staffordshire Railway Company, having selected six architects to submit competition drawings, lately decided on the plans of Mr. Edward Adams, as meriting the first premium offered, and those of Mr. Frederick Emerson, of Birmingham, the second. The first stone of the rebuilding of the parish church of Llanwnda, near Carnarvon, was laid on 21st inst. The architect is Mr. G. Alexander, whose design for it is cruciform, with a circular chancel, a western bell turret, and accommodation for about 300 persons. The churchyard is also to be enlarged. The works have been let to Mr. W. G. Thomas, and Mr. L. Williams, both of Carnarvon. On Friday last, the foundation-stone of large and important iron-works was laid at Baitney, near Chester. The structure is being erected by Messrs. Henry Wood and Co. Mrs. Wood laid the stone under the auspices of Mr. Welch, the architect. A new machine for watering streets is in operation at Birkenhead. The novelty

consists in its watering the whole width of the street at once—a recommendation when the machine has exclusive possession of the road.

The north area of the Custom-house, Liverpool, has been fixed upon as the site for the statue of Huskisson, which has been presented to the town by his widow. The Runcorn docks were last week visited by a Russian trader of 500 tons (heavy goods) burthen, with a cargo of chump wood from Russia, to be prepared, by the newly-invented cylinders, for railway sleepers. The quantity of pig iron thickly deposited on the dock landings is said to be computed at not less than 5,000 tons, besides a great number of iron rails. The first stone of the Church of England schools at Sudbury was laid the week before last. The Leeds Water Works Bill received the royal assent, after a severe struggle. Important results, according to the *Intelligencer*, are anticipated from the great additional resources which Parliament has thus placed at the disposal of the company. The contract for excavating the principal dock at Sunderland, building the sea wall, and completing the large basin, comprising an area of twenty-two acres of water, was let a few days ago to Messrs. Craven and Son, the contractors, from Staffordshire, for the sum of 135,000*l*. This undertaking is expected to be finished in the summer of 1849. The Newcastle and Gateshead Sanitary Association appear to be actively at work in a good cause. They are making strenuous endeavours to enlist the working classes in the furtherance of that cause, and have been petitioning the authorities of both towns for the enforcement of the bye-laws of the Improvement Acts for the removal of nuisances, one of which in particular, a source of numerous cases of fever, they have themselves pointed out. The sentiments of the new candidates for the parliamentary suffrages on the subject of sanitary reform, are also to be elicited; and the association is endeavouring to obtain the free use to the poor of the warm water now running to waste from the condensers of steam-engines, and to suggest the best means of abating the smoke nuisance. A great sanitary fact is at present being exemplified in Glasgow. While fever rages around the prisons, there, containing about 600 inmates, have not one fever patient. This, as a contemporary remarks, is at once a reward to the friends of prison discipline, and an encouragement to those of sanitary advancement. The profits of cleanliness are exemplified by the facts, that in Aberdeen the streets are swept every day, at an annual cost of 1,400*l*, and the refuse brings in 2,000*l* a year; and, that in Perth, where it costs 1,300*l* per annum, it sells for 1,730*l*.

#### THE PAINTINGS IN ETON COLLEGE CHAPEL.

The following particulars relative to the mural paintings recently discovered in Eton College Chapel, from one who has been employed in delineating them from the period when they were first restored to light, may be relied on.

A few fragments only were at first rendered visible, in taking down some of the modern tablets; but on removing the waistcoat of Sir Christopher Wren, to make way for some handsome carved stalls, in accordance with the restoration now in progress, a complete series of paintings were made manifest, in a much better state of preservation than is usually found, and in a style of art very superior to any others of their kind hitherto seen in this country, at least of so early a date as that to which they bear evidence, viz., the middle of the fifteenth century, or from the time of the completion of the chapel, in the reign of Henry VI., to that of Richard III. They are not "frescoes," being painted in distemper on the bare walls, without plaster of any kind, though there are indications in many parts where the colour has been rubbed, of a sort of red priming underneath, used partially, apparently to keep the moisture from damaging them by penetrating the joints of the stonework.

The series commences from the western arch as you enter the main body of the chapel from the Ante-Chapel. They consist of two rows of subjects, at about 6 feet above the level of the floor, and were continued originally, no

doubt, up to the lower line of the string-course under the side windows; but the upper subjects in general have had the superior parts completely destroyed. Enough, however, remains to shew that there have been originally sixteen complete pictures on each side, eight above and eight below, in honour of the Virgin Mary, to whom the chapel was dedicated; the subjects taken from the "Golden Legend of the Saints," and a work by Vincentius (a writer of the fourteenth century), entitled "Speculum Historiale," as cited in the black letter titular inscriptions under each. They are divided laterally into compartments by painted representations of statues, in canopied niches; the lower row representing female saints; those of the upper row, like the pictures themselves, are very much obliterated. Branching from the niches horizontally, is a species of frame-work, dividing the upper and lower compartments, and bearing the black letter inscriptions before mentioned; the whole forming an interesting example of the arrangement and execution of mural paintings of the fifteenth century, and of the ideas, as well as costume, of our ancestors of that period.

R. H. Essex.

13, York Buildings, New Road.

#### DECORATIVE-ART SOCIETY.

HERALDRY.

At a recent meeting of this society, a paper on heraldry was read by Mr. Partridge. Heraldry was explained to be an organization of emblems and devices which must have existed from the earliest establishment of order and civilization among the human race; and various passages, containing records of and allusions to its symbols were quoted from Biblical History, shewing that it had been the medium adopted for distinguishing friends from foes, nation from nation, and tribes and families from each other. The reader also quoted passages from Homer, Hesiod, and others, describing the shields of their heroes, adding, that the shields of Achilles, Æneas, and Hercules, had, in his opinion, been described with poetical license; but, nevertheless, supplied evidence of the custom of ornamenting shields in the richest manner of the arts of that period. He likewise considered as fabulous, the descriptions given by the Jewish Rabbi of the standards plucked by the tribes of Israel. Some references to the subject during the Roman era were followed by observations upon the great change made in the institutions of this country by William the Norman, who modelled his court as far as practicable after that of Normandy, and who therefore introduced three very remarkable officers, whose duties were strictly heraldic, viz., the great constable, whose authority in matters of war and chivalry, both in France and England during the Norman and Plantagenet reigns, was little less than that of the monarch;—the great marshal was an important dignity, whose influence was at its zenith at the time of the Conquest, and the office still remains through all the changes of legislation and government, one of great power and influence;—the third officer, being perhaps the most singular of any adopted by the Conqueror, was that of champion. Mr. Partridge traced the hereditary descent of the championship from Marston, who received his appointment, with the manor of Scirelesby, from William, and quoted verses from an ancient poem, in which the changes in the families of Marston, Ludlow, to Dymoke, the present champion, are set forth. He then referred to Camden (Guillem, Sir Henry Spelman, and other eminent authorities, shewing, that although many of our noble families can prove their descent from before the time of the Crusade, yet their arms or heraldic bearings had not then become hereditary. After the crusade, it was accounted honourable to display those signs which had been borne in the holy wars, and hence the descendants treasured them as their hereditary arms; and the opinion of Lord Chief Justice Coke was quoted, shewing that he considered this one of the strongest proofs of a noble and worthy origin.

Mr. Partridge then recited the "Roll of Carlaverock," a record in old Norman French, of the names and arms of the leaders who served under King Edward I. at the siege of Carlaverock Castle, Scotland, in 1300; and